

## By **STUART EARP** Wycombe Wanderers 3, Molesey 0

**ALTHOUGH** their league game at Walthamstow became a victim of the winter weather, Wycombe Wanderers still managed to get in some match practice before this week's important F.A. Trophy trip at Runcorn.

When it was discovered that Molesey were out of action — their F.A. Vase game at Tring was also weather affected — a friendly was hastily arranged at Loakes Park. This made up for last Tuesday's unfortunate postponement when the Blues played the RAF and had to call off a proposed game against Molesey.

A familiar face in the Molesey number 10 shirt turned out to be Dylan Evans, who was drafted into the Surrey side to help make a team. Their manager, Laurie Churchill was substitute.

Molesey, who play in the same division as Chalfont St Peter, gave Wanderers plenty to think about and showed some nice touches going forward. Ken O'Rourke looked the pick of the forwards and it took a brilliant 14th minute save from Spittle to prevent him putting the visitors ahead.

Wycombe were quick to reply. Goalkeeper Chris Page turned an Ian Pearson cross onto the crossbar and a minute later the Blues were one up. Trevor Davies headed Gavin Fraser's chip off the line but Pearson was on the loose ball in a flash and thumped home a great goal from a difficult angle.

O'Rourke once ran right through the defence and beat Spittle but he was forced wide and found only the side netting.

Wycombe's finishing was more impressive and it was their leading goalscorer Pearson who put them 2-0 up after 40 minutes. The ball was played out of defence to Howard Kettleborough who sent Pearson racing through the Molesey defence. Page had no chance as Ian took his opportunity early

and lobbed the ball high over the keeper.

Wanderers made three half-time changes and generally held the upper hand for the remainder of the game. Particularly pleasing was the form of Fraser, whose passing often opened up the Molesey defence. Kettleborough's clever distribution also augured well for next week's game.

A diving header from Paul Birdseye was well saved by Page but there was little he could do about the third goal in the 80th minute. John Priestley picked up a clearance from a corner, side stepped one player and lashed home a powerful drive into the corner.

The Wycombe back four had managed to keep Dylan Evans pretty quiet throughout the game but the Welshman got some measure of revenge with a minute left when he fired a 20 yard left foot drive just past the post.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle (sub J. Maskell 45 mins); P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips (sub D. Bullock 45 mins), R. Davies; H. Kennedy, J. Priestley, G. Fraser; I. Pearson, H. Kettleborough, P. Cruse (sub A. Horsman 45 mins).

**MOLESEY:** C. Page; K. Knight, T. Davies, F. Hanley, P. Harman; I. Davies, L. Peck, J. Strong; C. Marks, D. Evans, K. O'Rourke. Sub L. Churchill (not used).

**Half-time:** 2-0. **Goalscorers,** Wycombe — Pearson 2 (17, 40), Priestley (80).

## AVENUE OFF

**THE** weather, which has affected so many footballing weekends this season, took its toll of Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday. Their scheduled Rothmans Isthmian League game at Walthamstow Avenue was called off on Saturday morning with Avenue's Green Pond Lane pitch waterlogged.

Supporters Club coaches were informed in time of the postponement but there were still some unfortunate fans who made the journey to London only to find the game called off.